THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT

A Publication of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

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DNR Reports

Shorebirds are one of the most challenging groups of birds to identify. Differentiating the various species of peeps or identifying that rare visitor from Asia or Europe can be both exciting and frustrating. Most of the species that occur in this State are here for only a few weeks in the spring and fall, as they migrate to their breeding or wintering grounds. During migration, these birds can be found in large concentrations at various locations here and abroad.

In 1985, a cooperative venture was initiated to bring recognition to critically important shorebird habitats along their migration routes in both North and South Americas. The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) is a voluntary collaboration of government and private organizations committed to shorebird conservation. The Network recognizes critical concentration sites throughout the hemisphere that support a major portion of the shorebirds migrating between their breeding and wintering grounds. Places such as Delaware Bay and Copper River Delta in Alaska are in the Network. These sites are called Hemispheric Reserves because they annually host in access of 500,000 shorebirds. Today, eleven hemispheric sites have been incorporated into the Network.

On September 7 of this year, Assateague Island will be included in the first International Reserve within the Network. The Maryland-Virginia Barrier Islands International Shorebird Reserve included Assateague Island and all of the Virginia barrier islands. To qualify as an international reserve the site must annually host 100,000 shorebirds. The number of shorebirds using these barrier islands far exceeds this minimum. In 1987 alone, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service reported over 120,000 shorebirds at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. An intensive survey of the entire reserve has yet to be conducted, so maximum numbers are not available. Perhaps in time the site may prove to be eligible for hemispheric status.

The number of shorebirds annually using the Maryland portion of Assateague Island are not known. Perhaps an intensive effort is in order for this area.

Increased public awareness as a result of the inclusion of the Maryland and Virginia barrier islands into this Network will hopefully insure the continued protection of this fragile ecosystem and continued use of it by our shorebirds for decades to come.

Glenn Therres

Membership and Board of Directors Meetings

The general membership and Board of Directors both met June 9, 1990, at the annual conference at Washington College in Chestertown. Following are some highlights of the two sessions.

Special Awards Presented. The MOS Valued Service Award, which was created to be given to members who have volunteered countless hours of work for the Society, was presented to Mildred Gebhard, Rodney Jones, Lee Meinersmann, Dorothy Mumford, Chandler Robbins and Joy Wheeler.

Steve Hitchner, conference organizer, and artist Connie Bockstie, winner of the pin design contest, were also given recognition.

President Malcolm commended the efforts of the Silent Auction coordinator Sally Rowe and Raffle organizer Graham Egerton. The funds raised will go toward meeting the Howard County matching grant of $2,500 to benefit the Atlas.

President's Message. Mr. Malcolm reported that the current membership of MOS is 2,890, up 5% from the previous year. Even though the larger membership brings in more dues, the Society is spending more than it is taking in because of increases in expenses.

The total registration for the conference is 345, about 100 above the expected attendance. Mr. Malcolm has appointed a Chairperson for the Conference Committee, Sally Ann Waldschmidt of Montgomery County. She will coordinate future conferences.

Vice President's Message. Mr. Dolesh gave a progress report on the special MOS license plates. One hundred applications are necessary before the DMV will grant use of the plates. Eighty have been received. Applications may be obtained from chapter presidents.

Treasurer. Mr. Joyce emphasized the predicament of the Operating Fund, which receives money from dues, interest income, and sale of publications. From that fund must come expenses for publications, administrative needs, research grants, and atlas. More is going out than is coming in. Income must be increased.

Complete reports of committee chairmen will be published in *Maryland Birdlife*. Briefly:

(Con't. on page 2, col. 1)

Sanctuary Committee Report

Irish Grove Storm Damage

On May 10, 1990 a tornado like storm hit the building complex at Irish Grove. The house sustained minimal damage with some broken windows, one chimney down, shingles blown off, some siding damage, part of the front porch knocked out and loss of the electrical meter box.

There are extensive damage done to the outbuildings. The barn and the storage shed behind it were demolished. The corn crib/latrine was blown over. The banding shed was moved off its foundation. The screened dining area was knocked lopsided with a hole in its roof. Several trees around the house and outbuildings were blown down. Amazingly, the tool shed survived this malstorm without a scratch.

Whatever hit Irish Grove was an isolated event as there was no other damage done by this storm anywhere else on the property or even in all of Somerset County!

The insurance on the house will cover the expenses for having its repairs done by professionals. However, the outbuildings were not insured. Insurance companies are very reluctant to insure isolated uninhabited buildings. We were lucky to be able to have insurance on the house.

On May 12, Randy Stadler and several members of the Wicomico Chapter spent several hours cleaning up the debris that was scattered all around the place. On May 19, Jim Stasz headed a work party that cleared up much of the barn wreckage, tacked down loose roofing material, and erected a temporary latrine. Randy Stadler arranged to have essential repairs made and within the month the house was again usable.

A BIG THANK YOU to one and all who reponded and helped with this emergency clean up.

Marengo Woods

MOS now officially has a new sanctuary in Talbot County. It is a fifty acre wood lot that was donated to the MOS by fifteen local land owners. This is a lowland tract that has standing water on it for much of the year. This sanctuary will be left as is without trails.

(Con't. on page 2, col. 3)

(**Board News,** *con't. from page 1, col. 2)*

Audit. Rodney Jones. The financial records, which continue to be in excellent shape, accurately present the financial position of the Society.

Budget. Norm Chamberlin. The budget for May 1, 1990, through April 30, 1991, was amended and approved at the March 24, 1990, meeting of the board.

Bylaws. Bill McIntosh. Two proposed amendments to the Bylaws were mailed with the March/April *Yellowthroat.* The first one would eliminate the need for two signatures on checks for expenses which result from normal operations. The second amendement proposed a change in the dues structure. Both amendments were approved by the vote of the membership.

Conservation. Chairman Richard Dolesh recalled the recent 20th anniversary of Earth Day and declared it a renewal of a commitment to conserve our natural resources. He asked that MOS members continue to apply pressure to legislators in order to save the environment.

Mr. Dolesh expressed appreciation to Governor Schaefer and the involved agencies for promoting the lifting of the cap on Program Open Space. The real estate transfer tax will bring in millions yearly to preserve Maryland's natural heritage.

The Fort Meade surplus acreage is still in danger of being sold for development. MOS members are urged to write to President Bush requesting that the land be preserved.

Eleanor Robbins made a special plea for several natural areas that need our help. Among them, Black Marsh, Indiana Dunes and an Air Force Base in New Hampshire that might be sold.

Conference. Steve Hitchner. The unexpected 345 people who registered for the conference made field trip assignments a real problem. Mr. Hitchner recognized Gary Nelson for his extra work necessitated by the unprecedented number of people who wanted to participate in the trips. The Board later proposed finding ways to handle overbooked trips at future conferences.

The 1991 conference will be hosted by Montgomery County on May 24-26 at the 4-H Center in Chevy Chase. John Bjerke extended a welcome on behalf of the county.

Education. Joy Wheeler. MOS presented its Award of Achievement to Christopher Pine, a grade 7 student at Our Lacy Queen of Peace School in Essex, for his study on homing pigeons at the 35th Baltimore Science Fair.

Library. Joy Wheeler. Requests for back issues of *Maryland Birdlife* are being filled from the surplus at Cylburn. A complete set of *Maryland Birdlife* at Enoch Pratt Free Library is now available nationwide on Interlibrary Loan.

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Long Range Planning. Joanne Solem. The committee examined the current dues structure to see if a dues change would be necessary. Operating expenses have exceeded the budget. The funding of research grants is such a drain on the operating budget that an attempt should be made to support them in another way.

Research. Karen Skuldt. Appreciation was expressed for the afternoon paper session. Two grants have been awarded: $525 to Joan McKearnan, Frostburg State University, to study Avian Edge-effects along a Central Appalachian Riparian Zone; and $475 to Thomas Risch, Frostburg State University, to do Cross-Fostering Experiments with Colonial Waterbirds.

Sanctuary. Dorothy Mumford. Some highlights from a busy year: MOS has donated conservation easements on two properties: To the Maryland Environmental Trust, an easement on the new Marengo Woods Sanctuary in Talbot County; and to the Severn River Land Trust an easement on the Mandares Creek Sanctuary.

Talbot County is the beneficiary of two legacies left to MOS to be used for buying land in that county.

A freak storm that hit Irish Grove on May 10, 1990, will necessitate several workdays. Insurance will cover damages on the house, but there is much to be done to put the property into repair.

Scholarship. Mildred Gebhard. The names of seven recipients of the Ecology and Ornithology scholarships will appear elsewhere in Ms. Gebhard's complete report. Two of the winners, Carolyn Lipscomb and Linda Bystrak, were present at the conference.

Atlas. Eirik Blom. The committee distributed a report on the progress made toward meeting the publication date of the Atlas. The publisher must have all materials by the end of November. The species accounts, which are way behind schedule, must be completed immediately.

Cavity Nesting. Delos C. Dupree. The Maryland Ornithological Society Trails (MOST) report of 1989 indicated a sizeable increase in the number of bluebirds fledged, with a jump per box for 4.073 in 1988 to 5.611 in 1989.

May Count. James Stasz. Reports received through June 7 from 12 counties and the District of Columbia indicate a slight drop in the number of observers. The counts might have been affected by wet, cool weather.

Publications. Chandler Robbins. The June 1990 issue of *Maryland Birdlife* is waiting for Annual Reports from local chapters and committee chairmen.

Records. Claudia Wilds. The name of the committee has been changed to Maryland/D.C. Records Committee in order to include reports of rarities within the District of Columbia. The number will be

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(**Sanctuary,** *con't. from page 1, col. 3)*

Workdays

There are three workdays scheduled for this fall. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to join the fellowship of working and birding together on these days.

September 15. Workday weekend at Irish Grove to do some repairs and painting in the house. Contact Brent and Mary Byers (301-686-7294) for more details.

September 29. Workday at Mill Creek Sanctuary to replace the roof of the shelter. Contact Carolyn Mills (301-745-5209) for details.

November 3. The annual fall workday weekend at Irish Grove. Much work to be done on trails, house and outbuildings. Contact Dotty Mumford (301-849-8336) for more details.

Dotty Mumford
Sanctuary Committee Chairman

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expanded from eight to nine members and the terms of ofice have also been altered. Claudia Wilds will serve as Chairperson. Erika Wilson will serve as Secretary.

OTHER REPORTS

DNR Calendars. Joy Aso reported a profit of $543 from the sale of 1990 calendars. DNR will not publish similar calendars in 1991.

Tropical Rainforest Challenge. George DuBois of Montgomery County will donate $1,000 to benefit rainforests if MOS will contribute $1,500. Details will be published in *Yellowthroat.*

Revision of "Birds of Maryland", yellow book checklist. President Tony White of Audubon Naturalist Society has proposed that ANS share with MOS the initial printing of a revision of the book. The proposal was accepted by the Board.

Election of Officers. Paul Zucker, nominating committee, presented a slate of officers that was unanimously accepted by the membership. Elected to serve for the coming year: President - John Malcolm; Vice President - Richard Dolesh; Treasurer - Emily Joyce; Secretary - Joan Stephens.

This is my last report as MOS Secretary. Because I am moving to North Carolina, I will have to give up participation on the board, but I will be in touch with MOS friends and I look foward to birding on the Outer Banks with the people who have made my too-brief time as secretary so educational and enjoyable. I give special thanks to Montgomery County Chapter for its recognition of my twenty-five years as an active member. I wish Joan Stephens every success as new Secretary.

Patricia J. Moore
MOS Secretary

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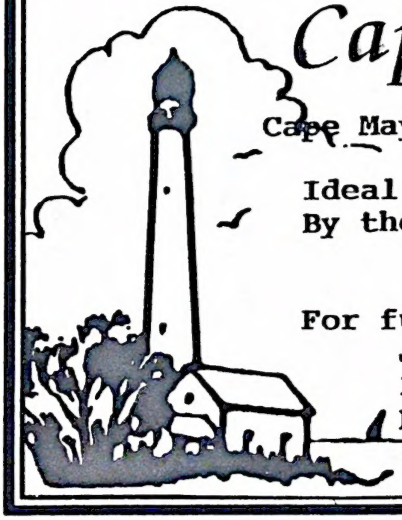

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Attention Atlas Coordinators and Participants

Subject: Names of Atlas participants

As you no doubt know by now, we are storming toward an end-of-November deadline for the Breeding Bird Atlas Book. This will be a hefty tome, and there are a thousand small points to clear up and finish up before we go to press. A very large point is the name of everyone who participated in the Atlas, or helped in any way. Every one of those names will go in the book, and we want to be certain that no one is overlooked. We need every single name.

Please send me a list of every person you are aware did field work during the Atlas. Every one. And please, if at all possible, give the proper first name, and the middle initial, as well as the last name. Eirik A. T. Blom instead of Rick Blom, Chandler S. Robbins, instead of Chan Robbins. If the person would prefer some other designation, let us know. Nicknames are all right, but only at the individual's insistence.

If you have the names of people who contributed in some way, but did not do field work, please send those along also, with some brief explanation. They will also be fully acknowledged.

We need this information no later than the end of September. **THIS IS IMPORTANT. PLEASE DO NOT PUT IT OFF, OR ASSUME THAT WE WILL GET THE NAME ANYWAY.** It would be very unfortunate if someone who has contributed long hours failed to receive their proper due.

One behalf of everyone who participated, thanks.

Rick Blom
1618 Somerville Road
Bel Air, MD 21014
(301) 893-4339

MOS Challenged

We are all aware of the importance of the rain forest to our planet. And, how they are disappearing. The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) has been challenged to do something about it.

Mr. George DuBois will donate $1,000 for tropical rain forests if the members of the MOS will contribute $1,500 by December 31, 1990. At the Board meeting on June 9, 1990, a subcommittee was created to determine how best to use the funds.

For tropical rain forests, let's meet the challenge! Each of us has a responsibility to do whatever we can. Remember, we have until December 31, 1990. Please send a contribution, soon. Make your check payable to "MOS- Rain Forests" and send it to:

Ms. Emily Joyce, Treasurer
816 Oak Trail
Crownsville, MD 21032

Thank you.

Over 100 Eagle Pairs Nest in Maryland

For the first time since the bald eagle was listed as an endangered species in 1967, over 100 pairs have nested in Maryland. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) biologists found 123 nesting pairs in the state this year. Of these, 92 pairs nested successfully, raising 164 young.

"This is the highest number of eagles we have had nesting since DNR initiated eagle surveys in 1977," said Glenn Therres, supervisor of the Nongame and Urban Wildlife Program for DNR's Forest, Park and Wildlife Service (FPWS). In 1977, 41 pairs produced 45 young. That number has steadily increased over the 14 years of the survey. Last year 97 nesting pairs were found, with 117 young produced.

Bald eagles nested in 17 Maryland counties again this year. Dorchester County led the state with 27 pairs, followed by Charles County with 22 pairs and Kent County with 11 pairs. The number of pairs in the remaining counties were nine each in Harford and Talbot, seven in Queen Anne's, five each in Calvert, Cecil, St. Mary's and Worchester, four in Anne Arundel and Somerset, three in Prince George's and Wicomico, two in Baltimore County, and one each in Caroline and Montgomery Counties.

Bald eagles nest along wooded shorelines of the Chesapeake Bay and most tidal tributaries, including the Potomac River. They start laying eggs in February and by late June the young are flying. DNR routinely monitors all known nests from a small plane thorughout the nesting season.

Glenn Therres warns, "Though the eagles' nesting numbers are increasing, the bird is still not out of trouble yet. The biggest problem eagles face now is the rapid development of our shorelines. We must continue to protect all nest sites and conserve wooded areas throughout the Bay."

The bald eagle was listed in 1967 as an endangered species by the federal government. Declining populations as a result of reproductive problems associated with the use of organochlorine pesticides, such as DDT, were a primary reason for this listing. DDT was banned for use in this country by the Environmental Protection Agency in 1972. Eagle populations have responded favorably to this action throughout its range.

Endangered species conservation efforts are funded, in part, by contributions to the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species tax checkoff fund.

Peregrine Falcon Nesting Results Announced

Young peregrine falcons are now flying high in Maryland skies again this year. Seventeen young falcons, called eyases, were raised in the atate this year. Seven pairs of this endangered species started nesting in March. Falcons nested at the USF&G Building in Baltimore, on the Bay Bridge and Francis Scott Key Bridge, and four special towers on the lower Eastern Shore.

"This is the best year ever for the falcons here," said Glenn Therres, Nongame & Urban Wildlife Program supervisor for the Department of Natual Resources - Forest, Park and Wildlife Service (DNR - FPWS). "The number of breeding pairs and young has increased over the last 8 years," Therres said.

DNR annually monitors all nesting pairs during the breeding season. Last year six pairs fledged 10 youngsters. Peregrine falcons returned as a nesting species here in 1983 when two paris laid eggs for the fist time in Maryland since the mid 1950's. That year one pair nested ont eh Bay Bridge, another on an Eastern Shore tower.

The return of the peregrine falcon as a breeding bird was the result of an intensive reintroduction program conducted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Peregrine Fund, and various state wildlife agencies, including Maryland's DNR. The reintroduction was accomplished by releasing captive-produced young peregrines to the wild through a technique called hacking.

Donations to the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species tax checkoff helped support this effort and similar projects.

Unanswered Questions

What is the percentage of wintering male and female Belted Kingfishers in Maryland?

One of the nifty things about kingfishers is that you can tell males from females. Which means it is possible to take note of which sex is wintering in Maryland. All it takes is careful record keeping, noting dates as well as sex. The reason for recording dates is that the ratio may change as the season wears on, or change from one winter to the next, depending on how mild it is and how much water is open.

If every birdwatcher in Maryland reported all kingfishers by sex between October 1 and March 31 we would probably have an answer pretty quickly, though it would be better to do it for several years to confirm the data.

Is there someone out there who would like to collect and collate this data?

Rick Blom

Mini Lecture Bergmann's Rules

While discoveries in science can take many forms, one of the most dramatic is when a scientist takes thousands of observational notes and discovers a principle that applies to a large number of species and animal groups. A nineteenth century German zoologist did just that and developed Bergmann's Rule. Simply stated, Bergmann observed that the overall body size of an animal of the same species tends to be greater in the cooler climates than those animals living in the warmer climates. Thus, as mean temperature decreases, birds of the same species get larger. Many of our common bird species follow this rule. They are the Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Bobwhite, Great-horned Owl, Screech Owl, Hairy Woodpecker, Horned Lark, Redwinged Blackbird, and Song Sparrow.

As always, scientists tried to disprove Bergmann's Rule. Rensch discovered that 90% of the geographic races of nonmigratory Paleartic species of birds followed Bergmann's Rule. The Emperor Penguin, European Wren, and the Willow Tit also have larger bodies as the mean January temperature decreases. It was also noted that the lower temperature of higher altitude tends to increase the size of birds of the same species. The ecological principle that is followed is that large bodies retain heat more efficiently than small ones due to a more favorable surface-volume ratio.

Clinal variations in animal populations appear to observe Bergmann's Rule. However, dramatic size differences can only be detected at the extremes of a species range. Bergmann's Rule does not appear to hold true for migratory birds since they are not subject to this climate form of selection.

Joseph M. Lewandowski

Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

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Wicomico: ..... Dave Weesner, 109 Jerome Dr., Salisburg, MD 21801—(301) 749-0829

1991 MOS Conference Pin Contest

Once again it's time to think about entering the 1991 conference pin design contest. The rules are simple:

- Use of bird appropriate to the conference site (Montgomery County), and include the phrases "MOS" and "1991."
- Submissions should be on sturdy, white, unlined paper or Bristol; in any medium; and at least five inches across (but not larger than 9 X 12).
- Designs should be clearly depicted, and in color. Any shape for the pin is OK.
- Fine details and complicated designs get lost or blurred when reduced to a 1½ inch pin. Bold, simple designs work best.
- Don't use copyrighted material.
- You may submit as many designs as you wish.
- Judges consider eye appeal, suitability of the species, and how attractive the design will look as a small pin.
- The contest will be judged by an impartial jury of MOS members, at least one of who has artistic qualifications.
- The company which produces the pins may make **minor** changes in the design to accommodate the manufacturing process.
- All artwork will be returned to the artists, except for the winning design.
- **Entries are due by December 31, 1990.** Send them to:
  John Malcolm
  10205 Kindly Court
  Gaithersburg, MD 20879
- Call John Malcolm with any questions (301) 977-5788, or write to him at the above address.

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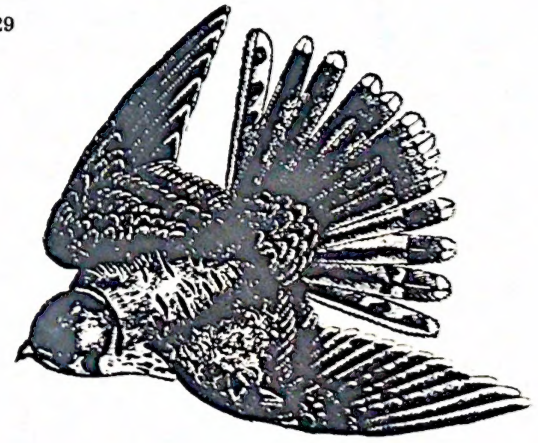


The AOU Supplement: Splits But No Lumps

In the July 1989 issue of *The Auk* (106: 532-538) the American Ornithologists Union's (AOU) Committee on Classification and Nomenclature published the thirty-seventh supplement to AOU Checklist of North American Birds. In simple, birdwatching terms, the latest round of lumps, splits, and name changes. A review of their actions reveals the following changes of interest to birdwatchers.

First, the splits. These are birds that have been previously treated as one species, and as the result of investigation have been split into two species. The AOU now covers all of Central America as well as North America, and I will ignore changes in birds whose ranges do not extend north of Mexico.

1. Western Flycatcher *Empidonax difficilis.* Believe it or not, we have another empidonax flycatcher! This action is the result of a long and comprehensive series of studies, extablishing that coastal and interior birds, though overlapping at some points, do not interbreed. Field identification of these two birds is still in its infancy, and to be certain you have seen them both requires having visiting their breeding ranges.

The two new species are known as (brace yourself) **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** *(E. difficilis)* and **Cordilleran Flycatcher** *(E. occidentalis).* The name **Western Flycatcher** is reserved for birds that cannot be identified to species. The Pacific-slope Flycatcher breeds from southeastern Alaska and northwestern British Columbia south to southwestern California and in Baja California. It is found almost exclusively (in the breeding season) west of the Cascade and Sierra Nevada mountains. The Cordilleran Flycatcher breeds in the interior of the West. It can be found east of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountains from southern Canada and eastern Washington south through Arizona and Texas and into Mexico. Another subspecies, resident on the Channel Islands off California may also be a separate species, and if studies prove it is, will be call **Channel Island Flycatcher** *(E. insularis).*

2. Black-tailed Gnatcatcher *Polioptila melanura.* This split has been anticipated for some time, and follows the publication of Jonathan Atwood's monograph. What has happened is that the birds from coastal California have been split out, and are now known as **California Gnatcatcher** *(P. californica).* They are resident in southwestern California and south through Baja California. The rest of the population retains the name **Black-tailed Gnatcatcher** and the same Latin name as before.

3. Brown Towhee *(Pipilo fuscus).* Another split that birdwatchers in the West have anticipated for a long time. What has happened is that the coastal population has been split from the interior birds on the basis of differences in vocalizations, plumages, and genetic structure. The two populations are now know as **California Towhee** *(P. crissalis)* and **Canyon Towhee** *(P. fuscus).* Brown Towhee is reserved for unidentified birds or for referring to both species.

California Towhees are resident west of the Sierra Nevada from southern Oregon through California and Baja California. Canyon Towhees are resident from Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas through Mexico. The two populations do not come into contact, and are non migratory. If you have seen "Brown" Towhees in California and anywhere east of there, you have seen them both.

Those are the major splits. Now for the major lumps, or the merging of two former species into a single one. Good news, there aren't any. The AOU appears to be in a period of splitting, much of it due to the influence of the new electrophoretic techniques. As we will see in a bit, quite a few additional potential splits are being investigated.

First, there are some other small changes to be mentioned. This is a good chance to update your field guide.

The **Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta* is now know as the **American Pipit** *A. rubescens.* This is the result of splitting it out from the Old World **Water Pipit.**

The Latin name of the **Northern Gannet** has been changed from *Sula bassanus* to ***Morus bassanus.*** This move reflects the feeling that they are not as closely related to the Boobies as previously thought.

The Latin name of the **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** has been changed from *Nycticorax violaceus to* ***Nyctanassa violacea*** establishing some distance between it and the other Night-Herons of the world.

Change the name of **Common Barn-Owl** to **Barn Owl.** Change the name of **Northern Hawk-Owl** to **Northern Hawk Owl** (remove the hyphen!). Change the name of **Common Paraque** to **Paraque.**

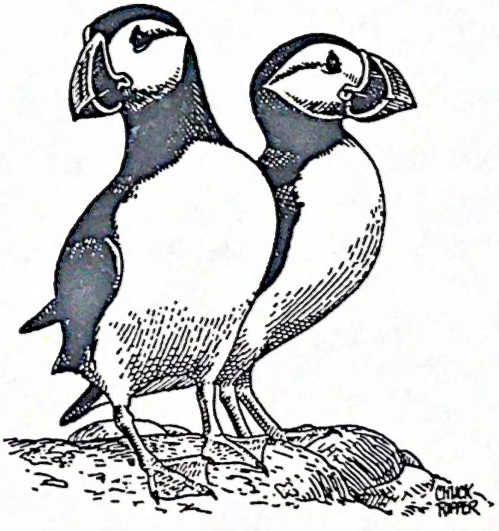
That covers the changes affecting birdwatchers in North America. People interested in the many changes in the status of Central American birds will have to track down a copy of the suplement. Before we settle in for the next two years (the supplement is published in the July issue of *The Auk* in odd-numbered years) its fun to look briefly at the birds the committee has under investigation. While not every one of these is guaranteed to end up in a split, the odds are very good that the majority of them will.

The committee is presently studying possible splits in Manx Shearwater, Blue Grouse, Rough-winged and Cave Swallows, Gray Jay, Tufted Titmouse, Seaside Sparrow, Red Crossbill, and (at last, at last!) Northern Oriole. In addition they are considering the possibility of lumping Iceland and Thayer's Gulls as well as American and Caribbean Coots, two changes that would solve a lot of field identification problems. They have had the problem of Common and Hoary Redpolls under scrutiny for some time and have announced that they will **not** be lumping them.

The other subject they are tackling is Cox's Sandpiper. The question for the AOU is whether or not to assign the bird specific status or not. While it is impossible to perfectly anticipate what action they will take, it is worth noting that no less an authority than John Cox, for whom the "species" was named, has published several articles recently arguing that the bird is best treated as a hybrid. I would guess that there is little chance it will be awarded full species status until and if a known breeding range is discovered

So there we have the latest round of changes. In July of 1991 there will be another bunch, and for the time being, it looks like we will continue to get many more splits than lumps. The message is: Pay attention to those recognizable subspecies.

Eirik A. T. Blom



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MOS Calendar — September/November 1990

Tuesday, September 18

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Fifth of nine fall Tuesday walks. Two walking loops lasting 2 and 2.5 hours, with early departure possible after first loop. Meet 8 a.m. at Robert E. Lee Park footbridge. The leader is Peggy Bohanan, 301-752-3520.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Antietam Creek and Potomac River, Washington Co. Walk along the C & O Canal for migrants. Meet 9 a.m. at the Park & Ride lot at MD Rt. 65 & I-70, next to McDonalds. For further information, contact Ann Mitchell at 301-432-2021.

Wednesday, September 19

MEETING. Jug Bay. "Florida Birding," by John Taylor. 7:00 p.m. at Patuxent River Park.

Friday, September 21

MEETING. Caroline. "Birds of Kenya," by Bob Ringler. 7:30 p.m. at Caroline County Library, Denton.

Saturday, September 22

HUNTING & FISHING DAY. Allegany. Country Club Mall, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Meyer's Station Road, Anne Arundel Co. Fall warblers and migrants. The leader is Emily Joyce, 301-923-6053. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Annapolis Mall Park & Rice lot off Jennifer Road.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Back River Neck. Lingering migrant and resident songbirds. Meet 8 a.m. at parking lot of school at Back River Neck Rd. and Pottery Farm Rd. The leader is Earl Palmer, 301-252-6457.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Gambrill State Park, Frederick Co. The leader is Mike Welch.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Wilde Lake for beginning birders. Bring binoculars and field guides and take a leisurely walk around this Columbia lake. Meet 8 a.m. at boat dock. The leader is Helen Zeichner, 301-730-3695.

Monday, September 24

MEETING. Wicomico. "Habitat Protection," by Rick Johnstone at Delmarva Power.

Tuesday, September 25

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Sixth of nine fall Tuesday walks. Two walking loops lasting 2 and 2.5 hours, with early departure possible after first loop. Meet 9 a.m. at Robert E. Lee Park footbridge. The leader is Earl Palmer, 301-252-6457.

MEETING. Patuxent. "Recent Changes in Breeding Bird Populations," by Sam Droege. 7:45 p.m. at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Bldg. 011A (Bioscience). For directions contact David Mozurkewich, 301-459-3375 (H) or 202-653-0948 (W).

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Snavely Trail, Antietam Creek. Meet 9 a.m. at the Park & Ride lot at MD Rt. 65 & I-70, next to McDonalds. For further information, contact Ann Mitchell at 301-432-2021.

MEETING. Washington. "Migration," by Chan Robbins. 7:30 p.m. at Funkstown Elementary School, Funkstown, MD.

Saturday, September 29

FIELD TRIP. Allegany. Dolly Sods. Observe bird banding by Brook's Bird Club and possible hawk watching. Meet at 7 a.m. at the Park & Ride, south of Rt. 220, Dingle Hill.

MILL CREEK WORK DAY. Baltimore. For information, contact Brent Byers, 301-686-7294.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Oregon Ridge. Late migrants, bluebirds, and probably broad-winged hawks and other migrating raptors. Meet 8 a.m. at Oregon Ridge Nature Center. The leader is Bob Stanhope, 301-472-9269.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Patuxent River Park. A perennial favorite with a pontoon boat trip led by Greg Kearns. Limit 18 people with priority to Harford Chapter members. Depart promptly at 5:30 a.m. from the Rt. 152/I-91 Park & Ride. Call the coordinator, Beth Olsen, at 717-456-5067 for information and reservations.

FIELD TRIP. Wicomico. Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. The leaders are Carol and Donald Broderick, 301-742-8920.

Sunday, September 30

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Baltimore Co. Big Day. Join the fanatic hardcore fringe for a couple of hours at Phoenix or all day (including a 7 mile unsheltered hike at Hart-Miller Island) in search of over 100 species of birds. Vigorous hiking, quick glimpses, and fast pace are probable. Meet 7 a.m. at Timonium Park & Ride Lot. The leader is Hank Kaestner, 301-252-5237. Alternate information source is Pete Webb, 301-486-1217.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Hughes Hollow. An all-day look for owls, turkeys, herons, ducks, woodland and field birds around this Montgomery Co. hotspot. Meet 6:30 a.m. at Grempler Realty, Columbia; bring lunch. For further information contact Bonnie Ott, 301-461-3361.

Tuesday, October 2

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Seventh of nine fall Tuesday walks. Two walking loops lasting 2 and 2.5 hours, with early departure possible after first loop. Meet 9 a.m. at Robert E. Lee Park footbridge. The leader is Mac Plant, 301-532-2445.

MEETING. Baltimore. "Chile, Driest Desert in the World to the Uttermost Part of the Earth," by Dr. Robert Trever. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore.

Thursday, October 4

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Soldier's Delight. Fringed gentians in bloom; joint trip with Natural History Society. Meet 1 p.m. at Frank's Nursery and Crafts Store on Reisterstown Rd. The leader is Jean Worthley, 301-374-5370.

MEETING. Frederick. "What's New in Bird Feeding?" by Rose Lechner, manager of the Feed and Seed Shop in Frederick.

Friday, October 5

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "I See a Bird—Now What Do I Do?" by David Holmes. 8 p.m. at the Annapolis Branch of the Anne Arundel County Library, 1410 West St., Annapolis.

Saturday-Monday, October 6-8

FIELD TRIP. Annual MOS Lister's Trip to the Maryland Eastern Shore.

Saturday, October 6

FIELD TRIP. Allegany. Green Ridge State Forest for hawks. Meet at North Branch at 9 a.m. For information, contact Roy Brown at 301-724-7769.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Snavely Trail, Antietam Creek. Meet 9 a.m. at the Park & Ride lot at MD Rt. 65 & I-70, next to McDonalds. For further information, contact Ann Mitchell at 301-432-2021.

Sunday, October 7

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Washington Monument State Park. Hawk migration at this scenic location. Meet at the Rt. 152/I-95 Park & Ride at 6:30 a.m. The coordinator is Randy Robertson, 301-273-9029.

Tuesday, October 9

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Eighth of nine fall Tuesday walks. Two walking loops lasting 2 and 2.5 hours, with early departure possible after first loop. Meet 9 a.m. at Robert E. Lee Park footbridge. The leader is Shirley Geddes 301-377-6583.

MEETING. Kent. "Ticking and Twitching in England and Scotland," by Larry and Jean Fry. 7:30 p.m. at the Kent County Library. Chestertown.

Wednesday, October 10

FIELD TRIP. Washington. C & O Canal, Lock #10. Meet 9 a.m. at the Park & Ride lot at MD Rt. 65 & I-70, next to McDonalds. For further information, contact Ann Mitchell at 301-432-2021.

Thursday, October 11

MEETING. Howard. "A Trip to the Maritimes: Birds and More," by Ralph Geuder. 7:30 p.m. at Longfellow Elementary School, Columbia.

MEETING. Montgomery. "Natural History of Costa Rica: Christmas at Sierna," by George Jett. 8:00 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church.

Saturday, October 13

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Monument Knob & Lily Pons. Hawk watching from stone tower at Washington Monument State Park astride Frederick and Washington Counties, and late migrant songbirds including white-crowned sparrows at Lily Pons fish hatchery. Slight chance for loggerhead shrike. Meet 7:30 a.m. at Security Boulevard Park & Ride. The leader is Pete Webb, 301-486-1217.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Lily Pons, Frederick Co. The leader is Mike Welch.

Sunday, October 14

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Northampton Furnace Trail. Late migrant

Calendar *continued*

and early winter resident songbirds, waterfowl, and hawks. Meet 8 a.m. at historical marker 2.2 miles north of Balto. Beltway on Dulaney Valley Rd. The leader is Joy Wheeler, 301-825-1204.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Schooley Mill Park. Prepare for mud, sparrows, and migrating hawks. Meet 8 a.m. at the building on the left as you enter the park. The leader is Nancy Magnusson, 301-461-8912.

Tuesday, October 16

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Ninth of nine fall Tuesday walks. Two walking loops lasting 2 and 2.5 hours, with early departure possible after first loop. Meet 9 a.m. at Robert E. Lee Park footbridge. The leader is Mary Jo Campbell, 301-825-2704.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Fort Frederick and Big Pool. Meet 9 a.m. at the Park & Ride lot at MD Rt. 65 & I-70, next to McDonalds. For further information, contact Ann Mitchell at 301-432-2021.

Wednesday, October 17

MEETING. Allegany. "Colonial Waterbirds," by Frank Rohwer, Avian Ecologist, the Appalachian Environmental Lab. 7 p.m. at the Board of Education, Washington St., Cumberland.

MEETING. Jug Bay. "Birding Down Under," by Dr. Donald Messersmith. 7 p.m. at Patuxent River Park.

Thursday, October 18

BIRD DISCUSSION GROUP. Baltimore. "Silent Hunters of the Night." The owls of North America, their natural history, feeding behavior, etc. First in a series of 8 workshops utilizing discussion, slides, skins, reference books, and other resources. Begins at 9 a.m. and ends with lunch at 11:30. Registration for entire series: $10.00. To pre-register, send check for $10.00 payable to "Baltimore Bird Club." Send to the coordinator, Joy Wheeler (301-825-1204), 531 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21204, or pay upon first visit.

MEETING. Caroline. "Bird Rehabilitation," by Lucretia Krantz. 7:30 p.m. at the Caroline County Public Library, Denton.

Friday, October 19

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Evening Owl Walk. Join champion owl caller June Vaughn, 301-838-4427, for an owl search at Octoraro Lake. Bring a flashlight! Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the pool on the Harford side of Conowingo Dam. Four species possible.

Saturday, October 20

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Jug Bay, Prince Georges Co. Two hours land birding, then a 3-hour boat trip with Greg Kerns to look for waterfowl and rails. Limited to 16 participants. Make reservations with the leader, Sally Rowe, 301-647-4519, by October 18. Meet 1 p.m. at the Annapolis Mall Park & Rice lot off Jennifer Road.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Rockburn Branch Park Hawk Watch. 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring blanket and lunch if you'll stay all day. Meet at the first lot on the left off the Montgomery Rd. entrance. The leader is Ralph Geuder. For further information call Bonnie Ott, 301-461-3361.

Sunday, October 21

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Habitat Walk at Savage. Co-sponsored with Howard Co. Rec. & Parks Dept. Meet 1 p.m. at Brick Park office. For further information call Bonnie Ott 301-461-3361.

Monday, October 22

MEETING. Wicomico. "The Chesapeake Bay and the Great Blue Heron," by Tom Horton, author of Bay Country.

Tuesday, October 23

MEETING. Patuxent. "Pileated Woodpecker's," by Cherry Keller. 7:45 p.m. at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Bldg. 011A (Bioscience). For directions contact David Mozurkewich, 301-459-3375 (H) or 202-653-0948 (W).

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Washington Monument State Park, Boonsboro. Visit hawk watching station and bird the park. Meet 9 a.m. at the Park & Ride lot at MD Rt. 65 & I-70, next to McDonalds. For further information, contact Ann Mitchell at 301-432-2021.

Thursday, October 25

BIRD DISCUSSION GROUP. Baltimore "Woodpeckers." North America's 20 species, form and function. (See Oct. 18 entry.)

Saturday, October 27

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Maryland Central Farm. Joint trip with Baltimore chapter. Possible pipits, horned larks, and migrant sparrows. Meet 8 a.m. at Centennial Lake parking lot off Centennial Lane. For further information call Bonnie Ott, 301-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. C & O Canal, Lock #10. Meet 9 a.m. at the Park & Ride lot at MD Rt. 65 & I-70, next to McDonalds. For further information, contact Ann Mitchell at 301-432-2021.

Sunday, October 28

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial park. First of weekly Fall walks. Meet at 8 a.m. at Centennial Lane parking lot. For further information call Bonnie Ott, 301-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Wicomico. Chincoteague NWR. The leader is Doug Bruce.

Tuesday, October 30

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Blair Valley. Meet 9 a.m. at the Park & Ride lot at MD Rt. 65 & I-70, next to McDonalds. For further information, contact Ann Mitchell at 301-432-2021.

MEETING. Washington. "Ducks and Geese," by Charlie Brightbill. 7:30 p.m. at Funkstown Elementary School, Funkstown, MD.

Thursday, November 1

MEETING. Frederick. "Birds of Prey and Raptor Rehabilitation," by Paul Du Bois, a falconer from Wolfsville. He will bring one of his birds with him.

Friday, November 2

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "The Natural World of Greenway," by John Trott. 8 p.m. at the Annapolis Branch of the Anne Arundel County Library, 1410 West St., Annapolis.

MEETING. Harford. Program TBA. Churchville Presbyterian Church, Churchville.

Saturday-Sunday, November 3-4

IRISH GROVE WORKDAY. Anne Arundel. Workday, birding & fellowship with members of other MOS chapters. The leader is Dotty Mumford, 301-849-8336. Make reservations by November 1.

Saturday, November 3

FIELD TRIP. Allegany. Shawnee State Park for waterfowl. Meet at the Parkside School at 9 a.m. For further information, contact Roy Brown at 301-724-7769.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Dam #4 on the Potomac River. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Park & Ride lot at MD Rt. 65 & I-70, next to McDonalds. For further information, contact Harold Winger, at 301-797-5657.

Sunday, November 4

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park. Fall weekly walk. Meet at 8 a.m. at Centennial Lane parking lot. For further information call Bonnie Ott, 301-461-3361.

Tuesday, November 6

MEETING. Baltimore. "Goshawks: When's the Next Invasion Due?" by David Brinker. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Dam #4 on the Potomac River. Meet 9 a.m. at the Park & Ride lot at MD Rt. 65 & I-70, next to McDonalds. For further information, contact Harold Winger, at 301-797-5657.

Thursday, November 8

BIRD DISCUSSION GROUP. Baltimore. "Hawks, Eagles, and Vultures." 30 species of our largest North American birds. (See Oct. 18 entry.)

MEETING. Howard. "The Bird Banding Story," by Kathy Klimkiewicz, 7:30 p.m. at Longfellow Elementary School, Columbia.

MEETING. Montgomery. "Birding in the Falkland Islands, Where Nature Is Still In Charge," by Don Messersmith. 8:00 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church.

Saturday, November 10

MEETING. Allegany. Annual dinner at Failinger's Hotel Gunter in Frostburg. Silent auction at 6 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. For further information contact Roy Brown at 301-724-7769.

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Anne Arundel Co. Resident woodland birds and waterfowl. Entrance fee charged. The leader is Chris Beaton, 301-849-8451. Meet 7 a.m. at the Annapolis Mall Park & Ride lot off Jennifer Road.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Eastern neck NWR. Wintering tundra swans, geese, waterfowl. Meet 9:30 a.m. just across bridge into park. The leader is Jim Peters, 301-429-0966.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Loch Raven Reservoir. Wintering waterfowl hotspot. Meet at the Rt. 1/Rt. 152 Park & Ride at 7 a.m. The coordinator is Don Soubie, 301-676-9386.

Sunday, November 11

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial park. Fall weekly walk. Meet at 8 a.m.

Calendar *continued*

at Centennial Lane parking lot. For further information call Bonnie Ott, 301-461-3361.

Tuesday, November 13

MEETING. Kent. "The Barn Owl in Maryland," by Glenn Therres. 7:30 p.m. at the Kent County Library, Chestertown.

Thursday, November 15

BIRD DISCUSSION GROUP. Baltimore. "Diversity of Size and Shape." 65 species of North American birds; contrasts. We'll use our study skins and mounted specimens to illustrate and reinforce our discussion. (See Oct. 18 entry.)

Friday, November 16

MEETING. Caroline. "Alaska," by Don Merritt. 7:30 p.m. at the Caroline County Library, Denton.

Saturday, November 17

FIELD TRIP. Allegany. Rocky Gap and local ponds. Meet at Parkside School at 8 a.m. For further information contact Roy Brown at 301-724-7769.

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Sandy Point State Park, Anne Arundel Co. Waterfowl, gulls, and snow buntings possible. The leader is Hal Wierenga, 301-647-7439. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Annapolis Mall Park & Ride lot off Jennifer Road.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Blackwater NWR. Bald eagle, thousands of Canada and snow geese, and other waterfowl. Meet 9:30 a.m. at refuge Visitor Center. The leader is Tito McLean, 301-377-7622.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Black Hills Regional Park, Montgomery Co. Nearby areas will also be visited as time permits. The leader is Helen Horrocks.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Piney Run Park, Carroll Co. Large lake with varied shoreline and a warm nature center with bathrooms! Ducks, geese, winter residents. Meet 7 a.m. at the Park & Ride lot at MD Rt. 65 & I-70, next to McDonalds. For further information, contact Ann Mitchell at 301-432-2021.

Sunday, November 18

FIELD TRIP. Piney Run. Wintering waterfowl and land birds, telescopes recommended. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the entrance gate of this Carroll County park. The leader is Burton Alexander, 301-381-5574.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Centennial Park. Fall weekly walk. Meet 8 a.m. at Centennial Lane parking lot. For further information call Bonnie Ott, 301-461-3361.

Wednesday, November 21

MEETING. Jug Bay. "Yellowstone '89: After the Fire," by Richard and Anne Rohlfing. 7 p.m. at the Patuxent River Park.

Saturday, November 24

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Blackwater NWR. Excellent winter birding spot. Meet at Rt. 152/I-95 Park & Ride lot at 6:30 a.m. The coordinators are Tom Congersky, 301-676-6489, and Randy Robertson, 301-272-9029.

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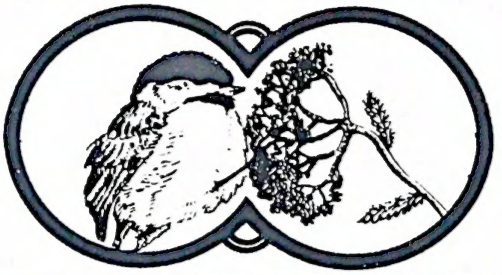

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Monday, November 26

MEETING. Wicomico. "Raptors," by Ellen Lawler.

Tuesday, November 27

MEETING. Patuxent. "East Africa Through My Lens," by Luther Goldman. 7:45 p.m. at Beltsville Agricultural Center, Bldg. 011A (Bioscience). For directions contact David Mozurkewich, 301-459-3375 (H) or 202-653-0948 (W).

MEETING. Washington. "Maine Audubon Nature Camp Experiences," by Susan Moore, park naturalist. 7:30 p.m. at Funkstown Elementary School, Funkstown, MD.

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